



**National Park Service**  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

**U.S. Forest Service**  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Sequoia National Forest



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## Interagency News Release / Fire Update

**For Immediate Release – September 23, 2003**

Contacts: **John Daugherty** – Fire Information Officer for Kaweah-Kern Complex (559) 565-3117.  
**Jody Lyle** - Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks, Fire Information and Education Specialist (559) 565-3703 and **Denise Alonzo** – Sequoia National Forest, District Public Affairs Specialist - Tule River, Hot Springs, Hume Lake Districts (559) 539-2607 ext. 212

### Kaweah-Kern Complex Update

The Rocky Mountain Fire Use Team continues to manage and monitor 13 fire use projects in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and Sequoia National Forest. Ten small fires showed no activity yesterday. The Williams, West Kern, and Giant fires remain active. A strong high pressure system will keep temperatures well above normal through Wednesday, and dry conditions will persist with low humidity for the week. These weather conditions are expected to result in active fire behavior.

Objectives for the three large fires are being met. Public and firefighter safety has been provided for with no injuries or accidents. The fires are producing resource benefits by reducing ground fuels and maintaining a natural fire cycle in the parks and wilderness areas. Protection is in place for structures, cultural resources, and named trees.

Resources assigned to the complex include the fire use team, three fire crews, one engine, one water tender, and four helicopters with a total of 80 people assigned to the fires.

The following is an update for the three large wildland use fire projects.

- **Williams Fire (Kings Canyon National Park)** – The fire remained active with torching of trees, spotting, and short runs of surface fires. It grew to 1,200 acres. The National Park Service and U. S. Forest Service continue to manage the fire jointly. Trails in the area remain closed to provide for public safety.
- **West Kern Fire (Sequoia National Park and Sequoia National Forest)** – This fire remained active with short runs, spotting, and occasional torching of trees. Structure protection remains in place for the Kern Canyon Ranger Station and was set up at Brown's Camp on the Inyo National Forest. Total estimated acreage is 2,750 acres.

**To provide for public safety in the West Kern fire area, additional trails have been closed, effective immediately.**

- **Sequoia National Forest** – Trail 32E05, east of Lion Meadows, Trail 33E01, north of Willow Meadow, Trail 32E06, north of the junction between 32E02 and 32E14, and Trail 21E10, east of Coyote Pass.

- **Little Whitney Trail (Inyo National Forest)** This section of trail along Golden Trout Creek is closed from Little Whitney Meadow to the Kern River.
- **Giant Fire (Sequoia National Park)** – Firefighters observed continued creeping and smoldering on this 199-acre fire. Trail closures remain in effect for this area.
- **Homer’s Nose 2 (Sequoia National Park)** – This fire was very active over the weekend, doubling in size to 100 acres. Two heavy helicopters will perform bucket drops on this suppression fire today. The Arrowhead hotshots were on scene yesterday, but managers removed the crew for safety.

NPS / USFS